



ANG

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Editorial

Wage all-out struggle against the US-Arroyo regime's fascism and psywar

A psywar campaign always goes hand in glove with fascist terrorism and violence against the people. The US-Arroyo regime is currently stepping up its psywar offensive in line with its relentless fascist attacks against the armed revolutionary forces and legal democratic organizations and parties.

Psywar operations are a key feature of Oplan Bantay Laya (OBL) II. Over the past few months, there has been a noticeable rise in the frequency, spread and intensity of the psywar operations that Malacañang and the AFP/PNP have been systematically and continuously waging along with killings and armed attacks.

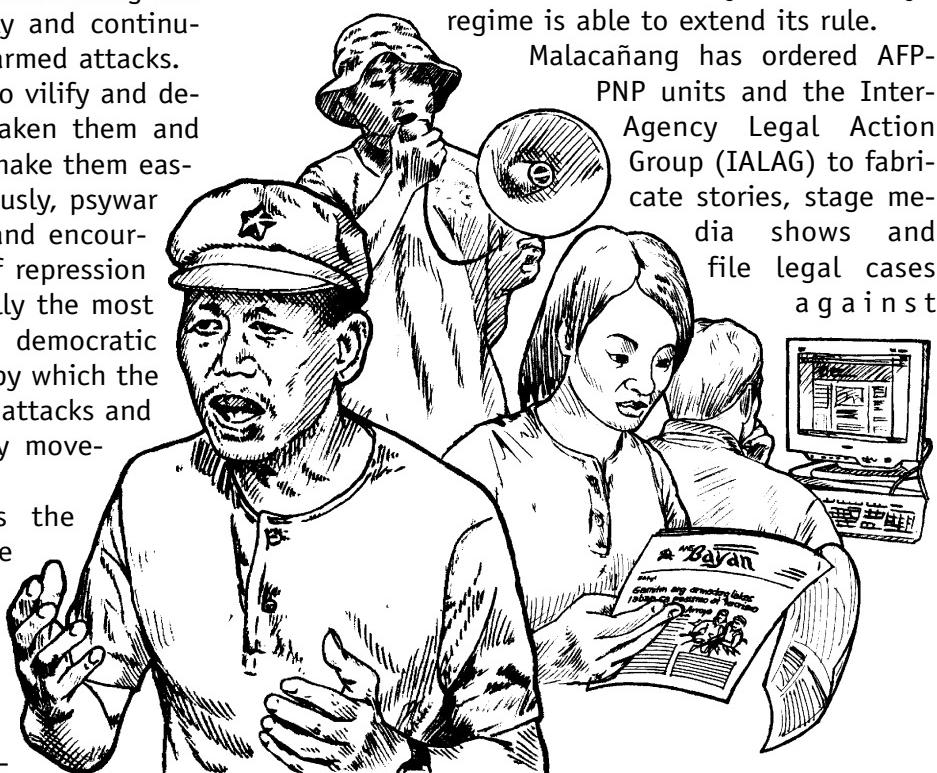
The psywar operations are meant to vilify and demoralize the revolutionary forces, weaken them and their mass supporters and eventually make them easier targets for destruction. Simultaneously, psywar operations are also meant to justify and encourage armed attacks and other forms of repression to quell the legal opposition, especially the most determined, militant and progressive democratic mass movement. They are also means by which the Arroyo regime can cover up its fascist attacks and blame its crimes on the revolutionary movement.

The US-Arroyo regime considers the armed revolutionary movement and the democratic mass movement advancing the cause of national democracy through various means as the primary obstacles to its continued stay in power until 2010 or even beyond.

The regime is well aware that its in-

sistence on clinging to power until 2010 or beyond will be met with fierce resistance by these forces and the rest of the Filipino people. Thus, Malacañang and its Cabinet Oversight Committee on Internal Security (COCIS) have devised a three-phase systematic plan for repression and psywar. The first phase focuses on the current election period, the second on the post-election period and the implementation of the new Human Security Act (HSA) and the third on the period from 2008 to 2010 or whatever year the Arroyo regime is able to extend its rule.

Malacañang has ordered AFP-PNP units and the Inter-Agency Legal Action Group (IALAG) to fabricate stories, stage media shows and file legal cases against



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the revolutionary forces and the organizations and personalities of the legal democratic movement. The AFP has also formed Public Information Platoons as basic units for disinformation alongside Civil-Military Operations (CMO) units to ensure that all military campaigns have matching disinformation and psywar campaigns.

Area commands, various units up to platoon level and units engaged in civil-military operations have been ordered to prepare organizationally and put the necessary mechanisms in place to spread disinformation. The military has also been building broader and closer links to media and all other channels of information at various levels.

The enemy ceaselessly fabricates stories and files trumped-up charges. It spreads around convoluted lies that have included tales of alleged internal purges and mass graves of the Party and NPA, recruitment of children into the people's army, NPA involvement in the production of illegal drugs, extortion and forced taxation of peasants and small businessmen, among other crimes.

Arroyo is fearful of the imminent electoral victory of the progressive parties since they will serve as a strong column for the political opposition and the movement to oust her from power.

Consequently, there is an all-out psywar campaign to lay down various pretexts, legal justifications and support for the regime's plan to declare these parties as terrorist and illegal. The regime is preparing an intensified legal offensive for the second phase, using the HSA to expel these parties from Congress.

It is creating the conditions for even more widespread and more intense fascist attacks during the final phase.

But the regime is wrong in assuming that it can crush the revolutionary movement and quell the legal democratic movement through fascist attacks and psywar operations. These cannot break the people's resolve to struggle and oust the brutal, lying and power-hungry ruling regime.

It is the urgent task of all units of the Party, NPA and revolutionary movement and the rest of the people to intensify the struggle on all

fronts. Simultaneously, it is everyone's duty to persistently, swiftly, systematically and broadly expose and condemn the fascist attacks, psywar and all forms of deception, deceit and brutality of the US-Arroyo regime and its armed forces.

There is need for specific measures to block and foil the AFP's intense fascist attacks and psywar projects. Each Party organ, committee and unit, each NPA command and NDF cell and the mass organizations must always be prepared to swiftly expose the AFP's crimes and lies in their respective areas. The revolutionary forces must exceed the regime's propaganda efforts.

It is the responsibility of the units concerned to immediately gather the data required to belie the enemy's psywar operations. Reports must be sent expeditiously to the organs concerned and statements must be furnished to traditional media and new information channels such as the internet while ensuring security in undertaking such efforts.

We must systematically expose the regime's fascism and rottenness even as we underscore the ascendancy and victories of the people's struggles and the revolutionary movement. Specifically, we must expand and intensify the exposure of, and resistance to, concrete cases of state fascism and terrorism, corruption, plunder, electoral fraud and the various other crimes and antipeople policies of the unpatriotic Arroyo regime.

The most effective response to the regime's fascism and psywar is to enhance, expand and intensify the propaganda and protest movement, strengthen mass work and antifascist, antifeudal, and anti-imperialist struggles while intensifying armed struggle nationwide. **AB**



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Davao Penal Colony raid

NPA seizes 108 firearms

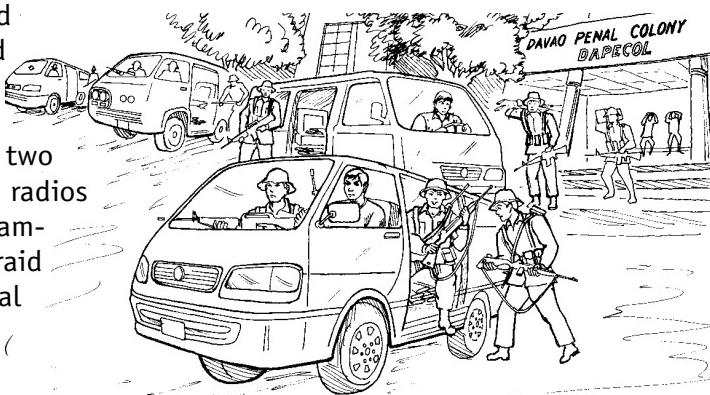
Red fighters of the Merardo Arce Command (MAC)-NPA conducted a victorious raid on the Davao Prison and Penal Farm (DPPF) in Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte last April 7 without firing a single shot. The DPPF, better known as the Davao Penal Colony or DAPECOL is the third largest prison in the Philippines.

The Red fighters seized 105 rifles and shotguns, three pistols, two VHF hand-held radios and assorted ammunition. The raid is one of several tactical offensives with the largest firearms hauls in years.

Red fighters disguised as military personnel reached the DAPECOL gate at about 1:30 a.m. aboard five rented vans. They claimed to be on their way home from a wedding and that one of their vehicles had suffered engine trouble. The two gate guards were instantly disarmed. A platoon of Red fighters swooped into the compound. Two more guards at the administration building and armory were immediately neutralized. All firearms were quickly seized. The guards were not hurt because they offered no resistance. The entire operation lasted 20 minutes.

The Red fighters blew up a command-detonated bomb by a roadside at about 4:00 a.m. to deter any military or police pursuit operation.

This operation is a heavy blow to the Arroyo regime, especially because the regime repeatedly announces that it will crush the NPA



by 2010. The 108 firearms seized will equip additional NPA units.

The entire revolutionary movement is gladdened by this victory. It inspires the NPA throughout the country to launch even more tactical offensives in the midst of the Arroyo regime's fascist attacks against the people. It also inspires the entire revolutionary movement and the people to further advance various forms of struggle against the arrogant Arroyo regime.

The Communist Party of the Philippines calls on all NPA units to emulate the DAPECOL raid, launch more tactical offensives and seize more firearms from the enemy. The CPP urged all NPA units to launch successive tactical operations, exceed the number of firearms seized from DAPECOL, punish the most rabid fascist criminals and plunderers, strike heavy blows on the Arroyo regime and elevate people's war to a higher level. **AB**

NPA belies AFP's fabricated stories

The New People's Army (NPA) in Panay vehemently denied a malicious lie spread by the AFP accusing the NPA of attempting to murder a peasant last April 6 in Iloilo. According to Ka Ariston Remus, spokesperson for the NPA Napoleon Tumagtang Command in Southern Panay, the people's army had no involvement in the attempted killing of Jodie Morante, a peasant from Barangay Ticdalan, Miag-ao. The story is just another attempt by the AFP to malign the island's revolutionary movement.

Morante was abducted by four armed men on the afternoon of April 6 in Barangay Camiri, Miag-ao. The AFP claimed he was targeted by the NPA for refusing to pay taxes. Morante was shot in the left hand but successfully escaped from his captors. He was rushed to the hospital and was provided with military guards the next day.

Meanwhile, Leonardo "Ka Parago" Pitao of the 1st Pulang Bagani Command in Southern Mindanao Region refuted claims by the 73rd IB that the NPA massacred a family last April 9 in Calinan, Davao City. According to Ka Parago, it was the Alamara, an anti-communist vigilante group that massacred the Gonzaga family in Barangay Calagdag, Calinan.

The Alamara is handled by the 73rd IB based in Calinan. It was initially formed from elements of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) operating in the Davao provinces.

Ka Parago added that the Alamara has a long record of killing, robbery and other crimes in the remote barangays of Davao. **AB**



Victorious offensives and armed actions in Bicol, Abra, Antique and Iloilo

At least two soldiers from C Company of the 2nd IB were killed and two others were wounded during an NPA attack last April 18 in Barangay Villanueva, Gubat, Sorsogon. There were no NPA casualties.

Meanwhile, Red fighters under the Agustin Begnalen Command (ABC) launched a successful ambush on 41st IB troops conducting operations in Sitio Mananara, Barangay Poblacion, Lacub, Abra last April 6. Eight soldiers, including a lieutenant, were killed in the ambush. The NPA withdrew safely.

According to ABC spokesperson Ka Diego Wadagan, the ambush was launched to defend the NPA units and the masses from contin-

uing AFP operations. Troops from the 503rd Brigade and the Regional Mobile Group of the PNP-Cordillera have been conducting operations for several weeks before the ambush. Their operations covered the towns of Lacub, Baay-Licuan, Malibcong and Tineg.

Oplan Bantay Laya II directs the AFP to supplement their military campaigns by sowing terrorism and repression in the villages covered by their operations. The mili-

tary destroyed the villagers' small-scale mining equipment, stole food supplies and properties, and banned the people from working their fields and mine tunnels. They illegally arrested, detained and tortured two youths. They threatened to strafe and bomb villages supportive of the NPA.

Meanwhile, in Panay, the NPA launched successive military actions against reactionary troops and their lackeys in the island.

Red fighters ambushed a squad of the 2nd Platoon of the 79th IB's "A" Coy last April 2 in Sitio Anas, Barangay Tubudan, San Remigio, Antique.

In Iloilo, a soldier was killed when the 47th IB tried to encircle a unit of the NPA's Jose Percival Estocada Jr. Command in Panay's Central Front.

AB

Justice for Grecil and other children

The 101st Brigade has been thoroughly exposed for its out and out lies regarding the killing by its troops of nine-year old Grecil Galacio in Barangay Kahayag, New Bataan, Compostela Valley last March 31. Grecil's villagers belied the military's version of the event and independent investigations show she was shot in the head at close range.

Consequently, the AFP announced it was retracting its previous story and hypocritically said it was prepared to issue an apology to Grecil's family. However, the AFP still insists that Grecil's father is an NPA supporter in a



desperate bid to justify the killing.

Gabriela, Salinlahi-Alliance for Children's Concerns and Grecil's parents rallied last April 19 in front of Camp Aguinaldo to demand justice from the AFP.

About 300 residents of Kahayag also launched a march-rally last April 17 to condemn AFP



abuses and demand the pullout of troops from their community.

Simultaneously, Grecil's father Gelacio Galacio filed charges against 2nd Lt. Francis John Gabawa, leader of the unit that killed his daughter. Grecil's family will also file charges before the Joint Monitoring Committee created by the Philippine govern-

ment and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines.

The Kabiba Alliance for Children's Concerns and the Children's Rehabilitation Center had earlier demanded punishment for the military unit responsible for the crime. They also called on the UNICEF to investigate Grecil's killing and the many other cases of military abuses against children.

According to the Salinlahi Alliance for Children's Concerns, it is a long-standing tactic of the AFP to avoid any liability by branding as child-warriors the minors who become victims of their military operations. The AFP has already killed 54 children in its operations, and not one of the victims has been given justice.

Hundreds of children and youth have fallen victim to various forms of human rights violations under the Arroyo regime. Among them are 11 teenagers who were on their way to spend a holiday in Sagada last February 2006 when they were illegally arrested and tortured in Buguias, Benguet, imprisoned for several months and charged with rebellion; high school students Aileen Quintos, 14, and Rosemarie Tomas, 15, who were shot last January 2007 by elements of the 21st IB in Baggao, Cagayan and also charged with rebellion; Jefferson, Kennedy and Joey, all aged 15, who were accosted by operating troops of the 76th IB while harvesting coconuts in Lopez, Quezon, and tortured and accused of being NPA guerrillas; five minors now detained at the DSWD after being arrested by the military in a house in Leyte where alleged NPA leaders were captured; and 11 minors arrested while farming in Basilan, accused of being Abu Sayyaf elements and detained for three years now at Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan. AB



AFP, RPA-ABB goons ambush, seize Panay mass leaders

Suspected elements of the Philippine Army 301st Brigade and their cohorts from the bandit group Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) ambushed Panay mass leaders Maria Luisa Posa-Dominado, 52; Nilo Arado, 38; and Jose Ely Garachico, 51 in Cabanbanan, Oton, Iloilo last April 12. Dominado is an officer of Selda-Panay. Arado is an official of Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas and Anakpawis in Panay. Garachico is the information officer for Karapatan-Panay.

They were on their way back from an Anakpawis assembly in San Jose, Antique when their pickup truck was blocked by armed men aboard a white Nissan Urvan with license plates FVF-463. The assailants pointed their guns at the victims, dragged Garachico from the vehicle

and shot him in the nape. They left him for dead sprawled by the roadside. The abductors took the pickup truck with Dominado and Arado on board. The truck was found the next day, burned in a canefield in Janiuay town where the RPA-ABB maintains a presence.

Bayan Muna, Anakpawis and Gabriela immediately launched rallies in Metro Manila and Iloilo City to condemn the abduction of Dominado and Arado and demand their immediate release.

Tomas Dominado, Luisa's husband, condemned the abduction of his wife and her comrade and the attempt on Garachico's life

and outrightly pointed to the Arroyo regime as the mastermind of the crime. He assailed Capt. Lowen Gil Marquez, chief of

the AFP 32nd CRU, for accusing organizations under BAYAN and Bayan Muna as illegal adjuncts of the revolutionary movement. Dominado said

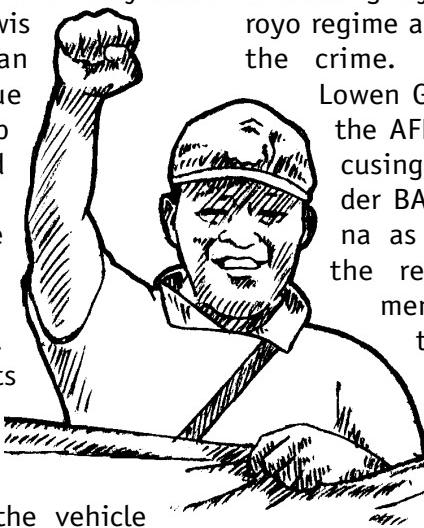
this sets the conditions for these legal organizations to become targets of the state's armed agents.

Relatives of Dominado and Arado filed a petition for the writ of habeas corpus before the Iloilo City Regional Trial Court (RTC).

Luis Posa, Dominado's brother, and Rosemarie, Arado's wife, asked the court to compel the military to produce both mass leaders.

Named in the petition were Maj. Gen. Juvenal Narcise, commander of the Philippine Army 3rd ID based in Jamindan, Capiz; Col. Renato David, commander of the 301st Brigade based in Dingle, Iloilo; and Col. Mariano Perez of the Military Intelligence Battalion based in Camp Delgado, Iloilo City.

AB





Red roses for my wife and all victims of repression

Excerpted from the statement of Comrade Tomas Dominado, Jr. on the abduction of his wife Ma. Luisa Arches Posa and Nilo Arado and the attempted killing of Leeboy Garachico.

Just recently, on March 28, I gave 30 stems of red roses to my wife symbolizing our 30 years of marriage amidst the arduous struggle for democracy. Through thick and thin, for 37 years we marched together with our people in their fight for liberation.

Is this about to come to an end? Last night (April 12), agents of the state under the Arroyo regime forcibly abducted my wife and Nilo Arado of BAYAN. They shot Leeboy Garachico of KARAPATAN in the neck and left him for dead.

For all the sacrifices and dangers that my wife and I had gone through in our 15 years of struggle against the Marcos dictatorship, we came out much alive and active to fight again, this time against the thinly-veiled dictatorship of the Arroyo regime.

I am outrightly accusing the Arroyo regime and its hatchetmen of the crime of abduction of Maria Luisa Posa and Ni-

lo Arado and the frustrated murder of Leeboy Garachico. Only the Arroyo regime has the motive for perpetrating this crime.

I condemn Capt. Lowen Gil Marquez, chief of the 32nd Civil Relations Unit of the AFP, of justifying armed attacks by the state against the various progressive organizations and their leaders.

He accuses progressive organizations led by the victims, such as BAYAN and BAYAN MUNA, Gabriela, Anakpa-wis and Kabataan in Panay as illegal adjuncts of the revolutionary Left.

As much as this grieves me, I am very sorry that I cannot personally at-

tend to my wife and her companions' cases. I cannot allow the regime the satisfaction of doing to me what they have done to Luisa, especially after having branded me a leader of the armed Left. But even from a distance, drawing renewed strength from Luisa's example, I will quietly, painstakingly, arduously and relentlessly follow her path, much reddened by the blood of our martyrs.

I am very satisfied with the relentless and massive efforts of Luisa's organizations, family, and friends to secure her return and attain justice, even under threat of fascist attacks, whatever the outcome. For, after all, this is what all our life's efforts (mine, Luisa's and a lot of other activists and leaders) are aimed at. It is the same endeavor of our people who are conscious, organized and powerful enough to exact justice and build peace.

Allow me to cry out my pain, and that of my family, Luisa's family, friends, and co-workers. Yet what strange solace we get from realizing that such pain is but a drop in the ocean of oppression, exploitation, hunger and hopelessness that has befallen the people. What great inspiration we derive in the thought that justice and peace can definitely be achieved if only we redouble our collective efforts in realizing democracy. That only in the protracted struggle for liberation can we achieve our goals, which are far more worthy than anything we have achieved and may lose—even our most loved ones, even ourselves. That justice for Luisa and Nilo can only be fully realized if justice for all state repression is achieved.

I shall still be preparing 31 stems of very red roses next year, whatever the outcome of this case will be—that much is certain. A flood of red roses shall also be offered next year and in the years to come for all victims of repression and for our people. For an unending stretch of flower gardens has already been planted, in full bloom and dedicated to their cause.

AB

Attacks on journalists continue

A radio broadcaster was killed and a correspondent was wounded this April in Nueva Ecija and Quezon.

Philippine Daily Inquirer correspondent Delfin "Sonny" Mallari, Jr. and DZMM reporter Johnny Glorioso were ambushed by two armed men on the morning of April 19 in Lucena City. The victims were aboard a car passing through Barangay Ibabang Dulay, Lucena City when fired upon.

Mallari was wounded in his left side while Glorioso was unhurt. Mallari, an official of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, is one of many who criticize human rights violations, corruption and media censorship in the country.

Meanwhile, the body of DZRB "Radyo ng Bayan" reporter Carmelo "Mark" Palacios, 41, was found last April 18 in Sitio Uno, Barangay Mapalad, Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija. Palacios, a resident of Guimba, is the 51st journalist killed under the Arroyo administration. Prior to his killing, Palacios exposed several government officials for their involvement in the "fertilizer scam."

AB



Assassin kills Bicol peasant leader

Several cases of killings, abductions and harassment of progressive organizations and activists have been reported over these past days. The most shocking case involved the killing of a militant leader in Sorsogon.

April 16. A lone assassin shot to death Willie Jeruz, 43, Samahan ng Magbubukid sa Sorsogon-Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (SAMASOR-KMP) organizer, at about 6:45 a.m. in front of his house. The killer fled aboard a motorcycle with license plate EM-5718 after peppering Jeruz's head and body with bullets.

April 12-14. Agents of the Military Intelligence Group abducted Kabataan party coordinator Beethoven Avila, 28, and Bayan Muna coordinator Precious Daño in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu. They were detained for two days, interrogated about their activities and accused of being Communist Party officials. They were brought before the court that allegedly issued the warrant for their arrest, but the court immediately ordered their release on the grounds that the warrant was defective.

April 11. Lourdes "Nanay Ode" Rubrico, 61, was freed in front of the SM City in Dasmariñas, Cavite eight days after she was abducted and detained by elements of the Philippine Air Force based in Lipa City. Nanay Ode is the presi-

dent of Ugnayan ng Maralita sa Adhika at Gawa (Umaga), an allied organization of Kadamay. According to her daughter Jean Apruebo, Nanay Ode was continually interrogated about leaders and members of various progressive organizations. Her captors also threatened to abduct one of her children. Apruebo also condemned the Cavite police for their failure to investigate the abduction and for spreading rumors that Nanay Ode was abducted due to her involvement in the sale of fraudulent land titles.

April 7. Elements of the 17th IB abducted five members of Karapatan-Leyte. One of the victims, Charlie Fortaliza, was forcibly arrested by the military on murder charges involving an alleged purge that took place in the 1980s. His wife was arrested last year and remains in detention in Tacloban City.

April 2. Elements of the PNP Regional Mobile Group razed the homes of Lakas

ng Maliliit na Mangingisda sa Masbate (Lambat-Pamalakaya) members in Sitio Bogang, Barangay Altavista, San Fernando, Masbate. Santos Ramirez, Lito Ontog, Ronnie Dellamas, Felipe Cabeles, Ricardo dela Peña, Eddie Cabeles, Lino Bona, Ligaya Bartolata, Danilo Bona and Dominador Cabeles lost their homes. According to reports, the arson was punishment for Lambat-Pamalakaya's endorsement of Anakpawis. The military is coercing community residents and local leaders to admit to being NPA supporters.

March 27. Eight masked men wearing combat boots and armed with M16 rifles seized Josephine Nogoy in Barangay Iba, San Jose, Tarlac. Nogoy recently gave birth to twins by caesarian section and was recuperating in her sister-in-law's house. She was accused of being an NPA guerrilla. According to the group Desaparecidos, Nogoy is the 16th victim of abduction since December 31, 2006. Among the cases not yet previously reported in *Ang Bayan* are the abduction of Leonardo Cabeles last April 3 in Barangay AltaVista, San Felipe, Masbate; Villamor Adona, 63, last March 27 in Barangay San Isidro, Sta. Ana, Pampanga; Abner Hizarsa, 55, last March 22 in Barangay Ilwas, Subic, Zambales; Romualdo Balbuena, 55, last February 25 in Quinapondan, Eastern Samar; the couple Florentino and Betty Branzuela last January 19 in Barangay Estaka, Dipolog City; and Gloria Pabillon, 40 and Mary Joy Opo last December 31 in Albuera, Leyte.

AB



Mass evacuation against militarization in Davao and Samar

Through concerted mass evacuations, the people of Davao and Samar showed they can do something to prevent and oppose the militarization of their communities.

Last April 11, seven hundred residents of Barangay Manay and Kasilak in Panabo City collectively evacuated after their communities were bombed by OV-10 planes in retribution for the victorious NPA raid on the Davao Penal Colony last April 7.

To justify the bombing, the AFP claimed they had sightings of large armed groups and that there was an encounter between the AFP and the NPA in the area. The AFP preposterously claimed that Red fighters held the residents hostage. When their fabricated stories and lies did not work, the AFP accused the residents of allowing themselves to be used by the NPA.

The residents immediately and strongly censured the bombing and the military's deceptiveness. They firmly belied the fabricated story that an encounter occurred in their community. They denied being held hostage by the NPA and explained that they purposely gathered in the large gym of their barangay to avoid the bombs that wrecked their sources of livelihood.

Meanwhile, 83 families or 438 individuals collectively evacuated Barangay Huknan, Giporlos, Eastern Samar last April 8 to evade the militarization of their community. A day before the evacuation, troops from the 34th IB arrested and manhandled local resident Enrique Gelio. The military accused Gelio of being an NPA supporter and tried to coerce him to point out other NPA supporters.

According to barangay captain Napoleon Ladao, the residents will not return until the soldiers pull out from their community. They want to avoid the military's brutality and are therefore staying with relatives, acquaintances and friends in the Giporlos town center.

The Leyte Center for Development said that most of the evacuees are children below 15 years old. They are being helped by various organizations and the Giporlos local government.

Through their collective action, the residents of Davao and Samar effectively opposed militarization and evaded the possible rise in human rights violations.

Ka Satur under continuing harassment

Rep. Satur Ocampo of Bayan Muna has been under continuing harassment by Malacañang and the AFP even after the Supreme Court ordered his temporary release last April 3. Despite this, Ka Satur continues to fight as Bayan Muna and other progressive parties gain more support from the people.

Malacañang again showed its utter contempt for the Supreme Court when Justice Sec. Raul Gonzalez ordered Chief Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño to begin hearing a case of multiple murder against Ocampo on the day the SC ordered Ocampo's release. On April 10, Gonzalez ordered the filing of 14 separate cases of murder against Ocampo at the Leyte Regional Trial Court (RTC).

Ocampo asked the Supreme Court to restrain the Leyte RTC from hearing the cases filed by the DOJ. He also asked Leyte RTC Judge Ephrem Abando to postpone making a decision on the government's move.

Atty. Romeo Capulong, Ocampo's lawyer, said there is clear and present danger that Ocampo may suffer permanent injury if he is arrested and held without bail for the 14 additional murder charges against him. Capulong criticized the government's move as highly irregular and intended only to preempt a Supreme Court decision on Ocampo's petition to dismiss the defective case earlier filed against him.

Capulong added that all hearings must be stopped if a complaint questioning the validity of the case has been filed with the Supreme Court. He said they plan to sue Secretary Gonzalez for contempt of court for disregarding the Supreme Court's decision.

Aside from the complaint filed before the Supreme Court, Ocampo has filed a petition to have the hearings moved to Manila for security reasons. He and his lawyers are determined to prevent Gonzalez's plan to have the hearings conducted in Leyte.

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A Malacañang-Comelec-DBM conspiracy

The Comelec continues to ignore calls to reveal the names of party-list nominees as it wants to protect the well-known personalities behind the regime-sponsored party-list groups from becoming targets of public censure.

The Comelec had, in the past, allowed the publication of the names of nominees. Now, however, the Comelec is threatening with disqualification party-list groups who announce their nominees. The Comelec itself refuses to reveal the list of nominees submitted to it by applicants for the party-list elections.

The Comelec justifies its action by invoking a distorted interpretation of the Party-list Law or RA 7941, which allegedly prohibits the publication of party-list nominees. But RA 7941 provides that the names of nominees must not be posted simultaneously with the list of party-list groups and does not state that the names of nominees cannot be published on other occasions.

While the nominees of Malacañang's many sham party-list

groups are being kept secret, genuine party-list groups have been fearlessly announcing their nominees.

It had earlier been reported that 20 of the 93 Comelec-accredited party-list groups are Malacañang dummies. They were either organized or bought and funded by Malacañang through the Office of External Affairs (OEA), the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Gloria Arroyo's rabid clerico-fascist National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales.

Gabriela Women's Party Rep. Liza Maza proved the existence of this conspiracy by presenting to media last April 20 a copy of a memorandum dated October 16, 2006 from the Office of External Affairs Special Concerns Group under Assistant Secretary Marcelo Fariñas II. The memorandum contained a request for ₱5.5 million from the Office of the President to fund some party-list groups that include Babae Ka, Agbiyag Timpuyog Ilocano, League of Youth for Peace and Kalahi Advocates. (Fariñas resigned from his post and is now

one of Agbiyag's nominees.)

The fielding of many fake party-list groups is part of Arroyo's overall plan to steal the election, increase the number of her allies in Congress through the party-list system and compete with progressive and genuine party-list organizations. It is all part of the effort to prevent Arroyo's opponents from garnering the required number of votes for impeachment proceedings when the new Congress opens.

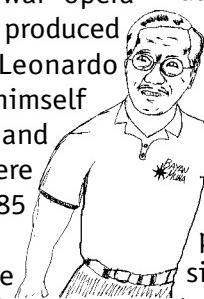
Malacañang has conspired with the Comelec in selling and awarding accreditation for party-list groups. For ₱100,000 to ₱10 million, a party-list group can be accredited even if it does not pass the requisites set by RA 7941. It will be recalled that verification results for the new party-list groups were burned in a fire that struck the Comelec last March 11.

For up to ₱7 million in bribes, each of these parties can win in the election. Former Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano is reportedly among those brokering such deals with the Comelec to accredit and en-

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Spinning yarns. Ocampo is being harassed with simultaneous legal maneuvers and psywar operations. The military has produced an alleged witness, Leonardo Tanay, who introduced himself as a relative of Juanito and Pablito Danaet who were supposedly killed in 1985 in Leyte.

Tanay's claims are convoluted and illogical. He insists that Ocampo is one of the masterminds of a purge in Leyte in the 1980s codenamed "Operation VD". He claimed Ocampo was respected by former members of the



NPA because of his stature as member of the CPP Central Committee. Tanay produced a fake "memorandum" ordering the "purge" that was allegedly signed by Ocampo.

Rising support. Whatever the regime has done, however, it has not been able to prevent the outpouring of people's support for the progressive parties. Even the regime's partymates have criticized Arroyo's use of deception and harassment. Vilma Santos and Sen. Ralph Recto have openly endorsed Satur Ocampo as Bayan Muna's first nominee in a rally last April 12 at the Plaza Inde-

pendencia in Lipa City. Santos, a gubernatorial candidate, and Recto, a senatorial candidate running for reelection, are both in the Arroyo camp. Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte has also called on his party, the Hugpong sa Tawong Lunsod to vote for Bayan Muna, Anakpawis and Gabriela Women's Party. Duterte is one of Arroyo's most ardent supporters in Mindanao.

A Pulse Asia survey from April 3-5 shows Bayan Muna with the highest probable votes (13.7%) among all party-list groups. This is higher than the 11.9% rating received by BM in the Pulse Asia survey last February 28-March 5. AB

sure the victory of Malacañang's fake party-list groups.

Malacañang is buying for up to ₱20 million the post of first nominee, and is paying up to ₱5 million for second nominee and ₱2 million for third nominee. It purchased the post of first nominee of the party-list group Bantay for Arroyo's notorious butcher Jovito Palparan, Jr.

Election funds. Meanwhile, the Arroyo regime has been relentless in stealing funds for its electoral campaign kitty. Last April 3, Malacañang announced that the ₱25.2 billion raised through the sale of government shares in the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) sequestered from the late dictator Marcos will be earmarked for anti-hunger projects.

Arroyo's operators are now busy looking for legal loopholes that will allow them to use the funds for their electoral campaign, while victims of human rights violations under the Marcos dictatorship have yet to receive their court-mandated ₱10 billion indemnification from the late

strongman's estate.

Under reactionary law, the funds should be earmarked for agrarian reform. But Socio-economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri rationalized that the ₱20 billion to be used for development work and alleviation of hunger in mountainous areas and the ₱5 billion for feeding programs are extensions of agrarian reform.

The ₱25.2 billion the regime intends to distribute through its candidates during the election period will augment the ₱1 billion fund already alleged to have been allocated for an anti-hunger program but is now actually being used to fund the Arroyo camp's campaign.

Meanwhile, Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Sec. Rolando Andaya Jr. approved the release of a ₱150 million fund for the purchase of 600 computers and edu-



cational CDs for schools in the first district of Camarines Sur where Diosdado "Dato" Arroyo, son of the fake president, is running for Congress. A total of ₱250,000 has been allotted for each computer that costs only ₱25,000 and ₱249,995 has been allotted for 42 CDs that will be distributed with each computer. Andaya fasttracked the release of the funds even if the project did not go through any requisite bidding or any processing by the Department of Education (DepEd). The funds were accessed directly from the DBM under Andaya using the DepEd's name in the purchase. Bicol DepEd Regional Director Celedonio Layon Jr. said he only learned of the overpricing from newspaper stories.

The huge amount plundered from the project will be used to fund Dato Arroyo's campaign.

The computerization project, however, has been temporarily put on hold because of the early adverse exposure. It will be pushed through after the election. AB

Widening gap between the ruling classes and the toiling masses

Social inequity in the Philippines has worsened under the Arroyo regime. While the toiling masses are sinking in a quagmire of poverty, the ruling classes are floating in a sea of wealth.

Data collated by the Ibon Foundation shows that the three biggest bourgeois compradors have more than twice the income of 30% of the poorest Filipino families. The combined incomes of Jaime Zobel, Lucio Tan and Henry Sy and their families amount to \$7.5 billion or ₱360 billion. Meanwhile, the combined income of five million of the poorest Filipino families amounts to ₱177 billion.

Close to 53% of the gross national product goes to the top 20%

of the Philippine population. On the other hand, only 4.63% goes to the bottom 20% of the population.

Compared to 1985, the income derived by 60% of the poorest sector of the population dropped 1.8%. Meanwhile, the income derived by the top 20% of the population rose by 1.2%.

The data prove that the country's wealth is being concentrated in the hands of a few big bourgeois compradors and big landlords who exploit the toiling peasants and

workers. It shows the detrimental effects of the Arroyo regime's economic policies that favor foreign big capitalists and their local ruling class accomplices.

Meanwhile, the latest World Bank study reports that about 15 million Filipinos or 19% of the population lives on less than \$1 (₱50) daily. About 43 million Filipinos live on \$2 (₱100) daily.

The same study puts the rural poverty rate at 50.7% and the urban poverty rate at 21.5%.

A study by the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP)-Philippines paints a scenario of poverty in the Philippines that is even worse than what the WB says. According to GCAP, more than 16 million Filipinos live on \$0.68 (₱33.53) daily. AB